



*Spiritual Care in Public Institution in Europe*,  
eds. Jiří Rajmund Tretera  
and Zábój Horák. Berlin:  
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Pastoral care in public institutions is one of the current issues of state ecclesiastical law. It concerns areas traditionally referred to as *res mixtae*, namely, health care, the army and the armed forces, the police, prisons, but also other public institutions as well as emerging areas (e.g., migrants). The churches are aware that it is necessary to prepare experts for these areas, who know not only theology and the given fields, but who are capable of ecumenical cooperation and often primarily non-missionary work too. Their activities in these areas are based on the principle of religious freedom, guaranteed by concordat treaties in the case of the Catholic Church, similar treaties with other churches and religious societies, and the legislation of individual countries.

Presented monograph *Spiritual Care and Public institutions in Europe* edited by doc. Zábój Horák and prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera from Charles University in Prague captures the current legislation and various tasks of chaplains, volunteers, and teams in many European countries in eleven chapters of individual authors. It is also an output from the international conference *Fourth Prague Dialogues on Church and State Relations: Spiritual Care in Public Institutions*, held at the Prague Faculty of Law on 13–14 June 2019.

In the introductory chapter, Jiří Rajmund Tretera recapitulates the general characteristics and new trends in the approach to pastoral care in public institutions in Europe. It thus presents the starting points for further reading of the monograph.

Chapter two by Gerhard Robbers of Trier describes pastoral care in public institutions in Germany, and briefly mentions pastoral care in the area of im-

migrant centers, transport (airports, motorways, railways) or in the German parliament too. In the third chapter, the English author Mark Hill QC summarizes the historical, legal, and practical context of pastoral care in public institutions and presents it to the reader as a long-term integral part of English society. On the opposite, there is the French approach described by Francis Messner (Strasbourg) in his paper on these services in the French secular lay model.

The Swiss situation is summarized by Adrian Loretan, who explains the pastoral service in Swiss direct democracy and in their systems of diversity. Wolfgang Wiesheider's contribution summarizes the Austrian approach, including the data protection provided by the law of the European Union. Chaplaincy in Hungary, including a brief introduction to historical and sociological assumptions, is presented by Balázs Schanda from Budapest. The Polish model of church-state relations and individual areas of traditional church activities (army, health care, prisons) is described by Piotr Stanisław from Lublin. The last three papers are devoted to the region of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Martin Šabo and Michaela Moravčíková present the Slovak situation, specifically the role of individual ministries (of defence, justice, finance, health care and others) in cooperation with the provision of this care with individual churches.

The penultimate chapter of the author Damián Němec focuses in detail on the area of Czech healthcare and thus goes beyond the overall concept of other contributions. The reason for this deeper exposition was precisely the topicality of the issue in the Czech Republic and the difficulty of negotiations and clarification of the views of stakeholders.

The last chapter by Zábaj Horák then summarizes the overall pastoral care in public institutions in the Czech Republic, both in terms of theoretical principles, bases and historical experience, as well as current legislation in individual areas.

Most of the contributions recapitulate the situation of spiritual care in public institutions in individual countries in a general way. The only difference is the concept of the contribution of Damián Němec, who focused in more detail on the sphere of healthcare in the Czech Republic. The reason for this choice was the current situation in the Czech Republic. After a long period of negotiations between the churches represented by the Czech Bishops' Conference and the Ecumenical Council of Churches and between the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, there was managed the legislative base in the trilateral agreement between the Czech Bishops' Conference, the Ecumenical Council of Churches and the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic on 11 July 2019.

The book was published in the German language Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag in the series Kirche und Recht-Beihefte in English. In this way it offers better linguistic approach and it can be a summary presentation of this issue,

but also a contribution to the presentation of the current situation in not only the European area and an incentive to enrich other legislation and discussion in not only the European legal area.

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